

National Wasteland Development Project

**4068. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
KUMARI VIMLA VERMA:**

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether corporate sector, businessmen and other agencies have been invited to develop the wastelands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the plans of the Government to provide necessary help to the landless who are presently using the wastelands in different States, particularly in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). An important objective of the National Forest Policy, adopted in 1988, is to increase substantially the forest/tree cover in the country through massive afforestation and social forestry programmes, especially on all denuded, degraded and unproductive lands. The Policy also lays down that individuals and institutions should be motivated and facilitated to undertake tree-farming on their own lands, and that, as far as possible, forest-based industries should raise the needed raw material preferably by establishing a direct relationship with the individuals who can grow the raw material by supporting them with inputs like credit, technical advice, harvesting and transport services, etc.

2. In pursuance of the Policy provisions, action has been initiated on the following lines:

(i) Promoting farm forestry/agro-forestry on people's own lands with a view to meeting the domestic as

well as the industrial and urban requirements.

(ii) . Setting up decentralised people's nurseries in order to provide self-employment in rural areas and to make available quality seedlings of species desired by people locally.

(iii) Advising the State Governments to review and relax appropriately the existing restrictions on felling and transport of trees grown on private lands.

(iv) Setting up of Tree Growers' and Farm Forestry Cooperatives in States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and Karnataka.

(v) Facilitating the flow of institutional credit for undertaking afforestation and tree-planting activities on private lands.

(vi) Setting up of the National Fund for Afforestation (contributions to which attract tax relief) in order to provide a mechanism to enable people to participate in the national effort of afforestation and wastelands development.

(vii) Allowing village communities to share in the usufruct of degraded forest lands that they agree to protect and develop.

(viii) Providing financial assistance to Voluntary Agencies to undertake afforestation and wastelands development activities on private and public lands.

(c) Afforestation/tree planting and wastelands development activities, including those mentioned in reply to part (b) above, help the

landless specially through the employment generated by the engagement of labour to carry out the work. Allowing village communities to share in the usufructs of degraded forest lands which they agree to protect and develop also confers benefits on the landless persons. It is proposed to substantially expand such activities, with emphasis on employment generation, during the Eighth Five Year Plan, which is under finalisation. The programme covers Madhya Pradesh already.

Rail Gates in Kangra Valley

4069. SHRI D.D. KHANORIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the requests for opening rail gates in Kangra valley of the Northern Railway have been received;

(b) if so, the number of rail gates proposed to be opened on this section where the roads have already been constructed, and

(c) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government has requested for gates at eleven locations.

(c) The Railways will provide the desired facility after the State Government consents to bear the initial as well as recurring cost involved and makes necessary deposits, as per rules.

Modernisation and Expansion of Hospitals

4070. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the modernisation and expansion of some hospitals in some selected States with World Bank assistance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). Proposals have been received by the Government from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal seeking assistance from World Bank for modernisation and expansion of Secondary level Hospitals at District/Taluk level. A statement indicating the amount and activity proposed with World Bank assistance, State-wise is as under:

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Name of the States</i>	<i>Assistance sought</i>	<i>Proposed activities</i>
<i>(Rs. in crores)</i>			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	236.70	Development of Secondary level Hospitals, 10 Base Hospitals, one disaster relief training centre and one T.B. Hospital.